



THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

Built between 1776 and 1831. Father Junipero Serra and the Friars who followed him, gathered the Yuma and Shoshone Indians (19,000) into communities to build mission houses, chapels and plant vineyards. With the overthrow of the Spanish power by the Mexicans there followed a period of destruction and neglect which continued till recent years. Helen Hunt Jackson's investigations caused the government to establish about 30 small reservations to care for the 2,600 remaining Indians. The work of restoring the Missions is continuing, to enhance the beauty of California's heritage.

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